



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

'SOUTHERN STAR' TASK FORCE ARRESTS INTERNATIONAL FUGITIVE *Fugitive wanted for embezzling millions from Ecuador financial institutions*

MIAMI—An 51-year-old Ecuadorian man wanted by Interpol for allegedly embezzling millions of dollars from Ecuadorian banks was arrested Wednesday morning by federal agents of the Operation Southern Star fugitive task force.

Luis Wilfrido Villacis Guillen, who was living in Miami, allegedly began embezzling in October 2001 when he worked as a general manager for the Ecuadorian government's investigative agency for financial institutions, the "Banco De La Previsora.

"The arrest of Luis Wilfrido Villacis Guillen is another example of how a unified approach to law enforcement works internationally, just as it does nationally with Operation Southern Star," said ICE's Miami Field Office Director Mike Rozos. "We will continue to identify, arrest and remove these criminal aliens to keep our communities safe."

Operation Southern Star is comprised of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents and U.S. Marshal Service officers. The task force members seek out and arrest foreign-born criminal aliens who are subject to immediate removal from the United States, foreign-born international fugitives, and foreign-born aliens who are wanted to face charges in the United States.

Operation Southern Star was launched in June and has resulted in 147 arrests made so far.

Guillen is currently being held at the Krome Detention Center pending removal to Ecuador.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security.